

App. No. 09/787641
Office Action Dated October 6, 2004
Amd. Dated December 8, 2004

REMARKS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4. No new matter has been added. Claims 1, 4-22, 26 and 57 are pending.

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1, 4-7, 9-18, 20, 22, 26 and 27.

Claim rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 8, 19, 21 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by WO 98/34998. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. Claim 8 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 4. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 19, 21, and 26 depend from claim 8. For the reasons discussed above for claim 8, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, favorable reconsideration in the form of a notice of allowance is requested. Any questions or concerns regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, John J. Gresens, Reg. No. 33,112, at (612)371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: December 8, 2004

JJG:mmm

By

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John J. Gresens", written over a horizontal line.
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112